

LAND USE PLANNING

in the
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Canada Northwest Territories

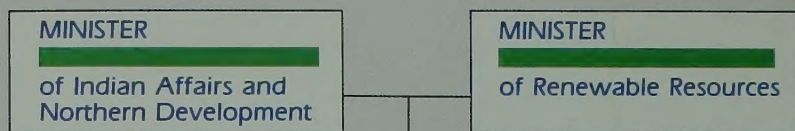


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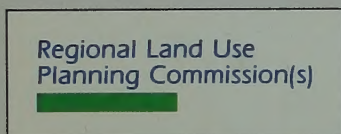
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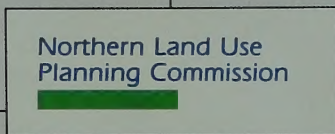
It is the joint responsibility of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Minister of Renewable Resources to approve Land Use Plans.



As required, the Commission may establish Regional Planning Commissions to aid it in its work.



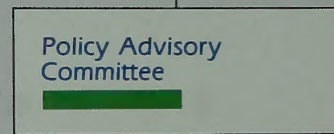
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The Commission is made up of non-government members, recommended by the federal and territorial governments and the native organizations in the Northwest Territories. This public body is responsible for the preparation of Land Use Plans.

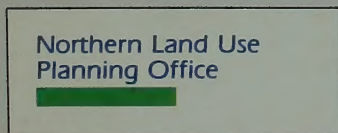
Principal responsibilities include:

- ensuring that there is public input in the preparation of Land Use Plans, and that the public is fully informed of all aspects and timing of the planning process;
- providing direction to the Planning Office;
- monitoring implementation of approved Land Use Plans, and reporting annually to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Renewable Resources; and
- coordinating land use planning with other public planning activities in the NWT.



The Committee is composed of representatives of the federal and territorial governments, and the native organizations in the Northwest Territories (Dene Nation; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Métis Association; and Tungavik Federation of Nunavut). It advises the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Renewable Resources principally on:

- broad planning goals and objectives, and priorities for planning regions;
- policies associated with planning proposals and Land Use Plans;
- terms-of-reference for planning regions; and
- the resources needed for planning.



The Office provides technical support in the preparation of Land Use Plans, and is accountable to the Planning Commission.

Figure 1. The Northern Land Use Planning Process.



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Together, we are embarking on a Northern Land Use Planning Program.

The federal and territorial governments, the Dene Nation, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Métis Association, and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut need your input for this locally-based planning process. This far-reaching program will develop land use plans for the entire Northwest Territories.

Your participation, your knowledge of the North, your willingness to approach issues with an open mind, and your ability to work together to harmonize the many options into suitable and acceptable overall Plans, are needed for this program to succeed. People are central to this land use planning process. **Your** views and expectations on future land and resource uses in the Northwest Territories are crucial. After all, it's **your** future.

David E. Crombie
Minister
Indian Affairs and
Northern Development

Nellie J. Cournoyea
Minister
Renewable Resources

LAND USE PLANNING

in the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



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WHY HAVE LAND USE PLANNING?

In the past, land and resource uses were decided on a project-by-project basis, often without full consideration of the impacts on the land and its people. This frequently resulted in conflict.

How its land, water and resources are used is vitally important to the future well-being of the Northwest Territories.

We need to approach decision-making in a more open and participatory way, involving governments, native organizations, communities and industry.

WHAT IS LAND USE PLANNING?

Land use planning is a cooperative process involving the federal and territorial governments and the native organizations, with the participation of communities and individuals. Its aim is to find the most effective uses of land and resources, taking into account the views and concerns of northern residents and Canadians in general. Land use planning evaluates the biological, physical, social, economic and political environment to arrive at acceptable alternatives and to resolve conflicts. The approved Plans will be used as a guide for future land and resource use decisions in the Northwest Territories.

HOW WILL THE PLANNING PROCESS WORK?

Land use planning will only work:

- if it is responsive to the concerns of northern communities; and,
- if there is a continuing commitment by all the involved parties.

Important features of the planning process are:

- a public body (the Planning Commission) will be responsible for the preparation of Land Use Plans;
- the Commission will have the technical support of a team of planners and resource specialists (the Planning Office) to assemble and review the social, economic and environmental information;
- there will be full opportunity for everyone to express their views and concerns at all stages during preparation of Land Use Plans;
- there will be an open review of each Land Use Plan prepared before it is forwarded to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Renewable Resources for approval;
- preparation and approval of Land Use Plans is the first stage in the planning process—successful Plan implementation also will require everyone's involvement; and
- implementation of Land Use Plans will be monitored to improve the planning process in the future.

WHERE WILL PLANNING OCCUR?

Planning will eventually occur throughout the Northwest Territories. Because of the vast area and cost involved, planning will begin in certain priority regions. After review of the issues, the priority for planning regions will be established by agreement between the federal and territorial governments and the native organizations. The size of the planning regions will vary, depending upon the issues involved.

WHO APPROVES A LAND USE PLAN?

This is the joint responsibility of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Renewable Resources. After accepting a Plan, the Ministers will seek the respective commitment and approval of the Federal Cabinet and the Territorial Government Executive Council.

LAND USE PLANNING AND LAND CLAIMS

Land Use Planning will not affect the settlement of native land claims.

WHAT ARE THE STRUCTURES IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

These are identified and described in Figure 1 on reverse.



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WHEN WILL PLANNING BEGIN?

Land use planning will begin in 1985.

Further information on Northern Land Use Planning may be obtained from:

Northern Land Use Planning Office
Tundra Building
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2R3
Phone: (403) 920-8536

Land Use Planning Division
Department of Renewable Resources, G.N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9
Phone: (403) 920-6118

Land Use Planning Directorate
Department of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4
Phone: (819) 997-2715

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